

first priority on our list here. But that does not mean we forget the rest of the members of our American family. That does not mean we forget the children who need health care or the farmers who are experiencing disaster or, Heaven forbid, we forget the members of our American family in the gulf region who have yet to get the resources and the help from their Federal Government they need to begin to rebuild their lives.

These are people who are a huge part of our American family and who strengthen the fabric of this great country. It is so critically important that they, too, be included as a part of strengthening this country to which our soldiers will one day return home. These are funds which are needed now. The supplemental offers the best opportunity to address these emergencies. It is the typical place where we address emergencies in the Congress.

Moving forward, I am pleased President Bush met with Majority Leader REID and Speaker PELOSI yesterday. I see that as a sign of progress. But I am also very disappointed that the President continues to put veto threats out there about a bill that is so vitally necessary to our soldiers and to our entire American family.

For the security of our country and for the sake of our troops, it is time for a new direction. It must be a direction that better reflects the ability, the reality, and the real progress that ultimately lies with the Iraqis taking responsibility for their own future. We know—we know—it can happen if the Iraqis understand what is expected of them.

This new direction must also acknowledge we must do more for our troops when they are in harm's way particularly but also when they come home. The love and care—particularly health care—they and their families need is essential to keeping our American family whole. They not only deserve our appreciation and support, they deserve the very best equipment, armor, and other battlefield amenities necessary to complete their mission and to bring them home, as well as the proper care, benefits, and attention once their military service is complete.

Our troops are worthy of this commitment from us. We should come together as a Congress and an executive branch to make that expression, to show our troops and to show our entire American family that at this time, at this difficult time in our Nation's history, we come together in a bipartisan way, in an American way, to recognize the needs of this great country and to move us forward.

I strongly believe this bill offers the necessary guidelines to bring our soldiers home safely, and as soon as possible, to care for this incredible country—these communities they will return home to, to keep them whole and to keep this incredible fabric of our American family strong.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, how much time remains to this side of the aisle under the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twelve and a half minutes.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to come to the floor and urge the Senate to expedite the consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill that is now in conference between House and Senate members on the Appropriations Committee. This supplemental request for funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan has been pending now for way too long, without action to send this bill to the President for his signature.

Over 2 weeks ago, I received a letter from the Joint Chiefs of Staff outlining the urgency of this appropriations bill. I am going to read a couple of excerpts from that letter now:

With the increasing pace of operations and material needs in Iraq and Afghanistan, we ask that the Congress expeditiously complete its work on the Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental. Timely receipt of this funding is critical to military readiness and force generation as we prosecute the war on terror. Given the current status of this legislation, we are particularly concerned that funding could be significantly delayed.

It is very clear that delay is occurring, and it is a serious matter. We are talking about life-and-death situations, the ability to furnish the equipment, the weaponry, the training that is necessary for our Armed Forces to carry out their mission.

This is not a time to play politics with the well-being of troops in the field. I am afraid that is what we are witnessing. I do not have any particular problem with the Senate and House members of our conference committee seriously engaging in a discussion of our differences and resolving those and submitting a final conference report as soon as possible. I urge that is what we do. But we are seeing more and more delay. That is just not justified under the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

In this letter I received the other day, here is another thing that is pointed out by the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

Without approval of the supplemental funds in April, the Armed Services will be forced to take increasingly disruptive measures in order to sustain combat operations. The impacts on readiness and quality of life could be profound. We will have to implement spending restrictions and reprogram billions of dollars. Reprogramming is a short-term, cost-inefficient solution that wastes our limited resources. Spending restrictions will delay and disrupt our follow-on forces as they prepare for war, possibly compromising future readiness and strategic agility. Furthermore, these restrictions increase the burden on servicemembers and their families during this time of war.

I do not know how the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and those who

are working closely with him in this very difficult period could be more clear about the importance of action now on this supplemental appropriations bill.

I am not going to belabor the point, but I think for us to continue to engage in who is going to win this political struggle about deadlines, forced re-deployments from Iraq and Afghanistan, suspension of activities of this kind or the other, and who is in charge, it makes the world wonder whether our Nation is competent to deal with an emergency that threatens the very security of our country.

I know when I came to Congress, you would hear it said that partisan politics should stop at the water's edge, that whatever is going on in other parts of the world that affects our security, our economic well-being, threatens us all as a nation, Democrats, Republicans, young and old, the military, and the civilian leaders of our country—we are all in this together.

We need to work out our differences and resolve them somehow. Let's look to compromise that is fair, that carries out the intent as expressed in these bills by those who have supported and passed an appropriations bill in the Senate and one in the House. Let's resolve the differences. That is what we are waiting on. And do you know what. The conference committee has not even met. There has been no meeting of the conferees on the part of the House or the Senate to discuss the differences. Now, that is inexcusable, and I lay that at the feet of the leadership of the Senate and the House. We are all in this together. I am not saying just the Democratic leadership or the Republican leadership, but we as Members ought to call on our leaders now.

Let's end this logjam. Let's end this confrontation and the political grandstanding that is going on on the part of some. I think we need to immediately move to conference. Let's work on these bills. Let's get them resolved in a conference report that the President can sign.

We are talking about a supplemental appropriations bill for our military forces. There have been other things added in both the Senate and the House. Well, that is not unusual. That happens. What we can agree on, let's agree on and send it to the President. But let's stop the delay, the procrastination, the finger-pointing, the political accusations that the President does not have the interests of the country at heart—whatever is being said in so many words. It is a political attack against the President. This is not the time for partisan politics. This is the time for the Senate and the House to get together, resolve our differences, and move on, support our troops, and protect our national security interests. That is what this bill does.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter signed by Peter J. Schoomaker, General, U.S. Army, Chief of Staff; Michael G.

Mullen, Admiral, U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Operations; T. Michael Moseley, General, U.S. Air Force, Chief of Staff; James T. Conway, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,  
Washington, DC, April 2, 2007.

Hon. THAD COCHRAN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COCHRAN: On behalf of the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen of our Armed Forces and their families, please accept our thanks and appreciation for continuing to provide the necessary resources and legislation to fight the Long War.

With the increasing pace of operations and materiel needs in Iraq and Afghanistan, we ask that the Congress expeditiously complete its work on the Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental. Timely receipt of this funding is critical to military readiness and force generation as we prosecute the war on terror. Given the current status of this legislation, we are particularly concerned that funding could be significantly delayed.

Without approval of the supplemental funds in April, the Armed Services will be forced to take increasingly disruptive measures in order to sustain combat operations. The impacts on readiness and quality of life could be profound. We will have to implement spending restrictions and reprogram billions of dollars. Reprogramming is a short-term, cost-inefficient solution that wastes our limited resources. Spending restrictions will delay and disrupt our follow-on forces as they prepare for war, possibly compromising future readiness and strategic agility. Furthermore, these restrictions increase the burden on service members and their families during this time of war.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of our service members and their families. We are grateful for your steadfast interest in providing them the best equipment, the best training and a quality of life equal to the quality of their service. We look forward to working with you on measures to enhance our Nation's security.

Sincerely,

PETER J. SCHOOMAKER,  
General, U.S. Army,  
Chief of Staff.

MICHAEL G. MULLEN,  
Admiral, U.S. Navy,  
Chief of Naval Operations.

T. MICHAEL MOSELEY,  
General, U.S. Air  
Force, Chief of Staff.

JAMES T. CONWAY,  
General, U.S. Marine  
Corps, Commandant  
of the Marine Corps.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of the time available on this side.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

## COURT SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of S. 378, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 378) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members and for other purposes.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we continue to debate and consider the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007. It should not be a struggle to enact this broadly supported consensus legislation. We made some progress yesterday but failed to get to final passage of this important legislation. I hope we can get there later today.

I would like to thank the majority leader for his support and leadership on this bill. Senator REID knows all too well about the need for greater court security since the last courthouse tragedy occurred in Nevada. Nobody has been a stronger supporter of this legislation. He helped us pass similar protections twice last year. It is no surprise to me that yesterday he met with the head of the U.S. Marshals Service. Sadly, they reported a 17 percent increase in attacks this year. We cannot delay our response any further in the face of this trend.

Senator DURBIN, our assistant majority leader, has been consistently dedicated to getting this legislation passed. The tragic murder of Judge Lefkow's husband and mother in her home State of Illinois serves as a terrible reminder of why we need this legislation. Senator DURBIN has worked tirelessly to prevent any further tragedies from befalling our Federal judges.

As I have noted before, this legislation has broad bipartisan support. Yesterday Senator CORNYN gave a powerful statement in support of this legislation. Senator CORNYN is a former member of his State's judiciary. I urge Members to consider his views and support for these important provisions providing for increased security. Even the White House has issued a supportive Statement of Administration Policy.

Yesterday a number of amendments were filed, but none of them was relevant to the important purpose of court security. There will be other opportunities to consider worthwhile amendments. I look forward to working with Senator COBURN on Department of Justice reauthorization later this year.

We made some progress yesterday. The Senate adopted the Kyl-Feinstein amendment that was adopted in committee. I thank Senator SPECTER for working with me on an important managers' amendment. That amendment

made several technical fixes and clarified our treatment and protection of magistrate judges and the Tax Court judges.

Last night after significant debate we had a vote on an amendment offered by Senator COBURN. Regretfully, it took from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for the Senator from Oklahoma to be ready to offer his amendment. Once offered we dealt with it promptly.

I would like to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for helping me manage this bill yesterday. His eloquent words in support of this legislation were much appreciated.

I thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BROWN for helping me manage this legislation today during the Judiciary Committee's oversight hearing with Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

I hope that today we can finish our work on this important legislation.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I understand the Senator from Nevada has an amendment he wishes to offer.

AMENDMENT NO. 897.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 897.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN] proposes an amendment numbered 897.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into 2 circuits, and for other purposes)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE VI: NINTH CIRCUIT SPLIT

### SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "The Circuit Court of Appeals Restructuring and Modernization Act of 2007".

### SEC. 602. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) FORMER NINTH CIRCUIT.—The term "former ninth circuit" means the ninth judicial circuit of the United States as in existence on the day before the effective date of this title.

(2) NEW NINTH CIRCUIT.—The term "new ninth circuit" means the ninth judicial circuit of the United States established by the amendment made by section 603(2)(A).

(3) TWELFTH CIRCUIT.—The term "twelfth circuit" means the twelfth judicial circuit of the United States established by the amendment made by section 603(2)(B).

### SEC. 603. NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF CIRCUITS.

Section 41 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding the table, by striking "thirteen" and inserting "fourteen"; and

(2) in the table—

(A) by striking the item relating to the ninth circuit and inserting the following:

"Ninth ..... California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands."

and